

The Diocese in Europe



A Penitential Service of Evening Prayer

(with a remembering of our baptism covenant with Christ)
to Mark the Beginning of Lent



Presider - Rev'd Sam Van Leer

Acting Archdeacon of N.W. Europe

Preacher - Rt Rev'd Dr Robert Innes

Wednesday, 17th February, 2021 - 19.30 CET / 18.30 GMT via Zoom.

Also live streamed on [Diocesan You Tube](#)

(please be online by 19.15 / 18.15)

Preface

My sisters and brothers it has long been the Christian tradition to mark the beginning of Lent and our preparation for Easter with a service of penitence and reflection. In Lent we walk with Jesus into the wilderness. We too are tempted to stray from the calling set before us and are therefore reminded of our need for God's ever present strength and grace.

This evening we mark this season of pilgrimage towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday with a simple service of Night Prayer, or Compline, surrendering our lives into the hands of almighty God.

This service will be marked on three occasions by our entering once again into the first part of our baptism vows. We complete them at the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

You may like to light three small candles as the service begins.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

The first affirmation of our baptism faith

God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All I repent of them.

Please extinguish the first candle

Silence

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

A hymn is played

1.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free
and make me pure within.

3

Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.

2.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.

4

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

5
Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:
when on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

6
Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

*Synesius of Cyrene (or Crete) 375-430,
tr Allen WChatfield (1808-96) and others
Mnoeo Christe*

The Word of God

Psalm 139 1-18

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before ♦
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦
so high that I cannot attain it. [R]
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? ♦
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ♦
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning ♦
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ♦
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; ♦
darkness and light to you are both alike. [R]

- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you, ♦
when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned ♦
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, ♦
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The second affirmation of our baptism faith

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All **I repent of them.**

Please extinguish the second candle

Silence

Readings

Daniel 9:3-6, 17-19

3 Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. ⁴I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, 'Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. ⁶We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

¹⁷Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary. ¹⁸Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name. We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. ¹⁹O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!'

Quiet reflection

John 8.1-11

⁸Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' ¹¹She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Homily – Bishop Robert

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said

All Christ died for us, so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All Christ died for us, so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.

We listen to a sung version of the Nunc dimittis

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here after which, silence may be kept.

Collects

Almighty God,

may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;
that by following in the Way,
we may come to share in the glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The third affirmation of our baptism faith

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All **I repent of them.**

Please extinguish the third candle

We await the Easter Light

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

May God bless us,

that in us may be found love and humility,

obedience and thanksgiving,

discipline, gentleness and peace. **Amen.**

Thank you for taking part

We leave the zoom gathering quietly